



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,178	11/14/2005	Egil Pedersen	17114/006001	7157.
22511	7590	01/08/2007		
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			EXAMINER HEWITT, JAMES M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/08/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/533,178	Applicant(s) PEDERSEN, EGIL	
	Examiner James M. Hewitt	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/29/05, 11/14/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/29/05, 11/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 11/14/05 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

In the referenced title of the invention, the term "TONGUES" has been misspelled "TONQUES".

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The amendments to the specification filed 4/29/05 are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. Accordingly they have not been entered. Applicant should file an amendment to the specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 to place the appropriate section headings throughout the specification.

The title is too long and not concise.

Appropriate correction is required.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because several words are misspelled and several phrases are grammatically incorrect. Applicant should carefully review and edit the abstract for proper spelling and grammar. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(i), which states "Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation."

In claim 1, Applicant claims a coupling part comprising a male part that is to be inserted into a female part. Applicant is not positively claiming the female part. The female part is only functionally claimed. Accordingly, the phrase "the locking tongues

Art Unit: 3679

have free ends pointing in the opposite direction of insertion of the male part into the female part” makes the claim unclear because one would not know whether the claimed subject matter was met unless and until it was used with the unclaimed element.

In claim 2, lines 1-2, all the locking tongues are said to be integral to an end portion of the male part. On lines 5-6, other locking tongues are said to be situated between the two locking tongues. It is unclear as to which tongues, “other locking tongues” reference, and as to which tongues “the two locking tongues” reference.

In claim 2, lines 2-5, the run-on phrase “this end portion being connected to the remainder of the male part through two planar bridge portions which are parallel to the inside of their respective locking tongues that are situated in a radial distance outwardly from each bridge” is awkward and confusing.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al (US 4,735,235).

With respect to claim 1, discloses a coupling part having an integral male part (12), wherein the integral male part has a stepping (e.g. between two given tabs 22) and

locking tongues (bent-over tabs 22), the locking tongues have free ends and all the locking tongues project slanting outwardly or have hooks projecting outwardly.

With respect to claim 2, as best understood, wherein all the locking tongues are integral to an end portion of the male part, this end portion being connected to the remainder of the male part through two planar bridge portions (on each axial side of rib 18) which are parallel to the inside of their respective locking tongues that are situated in a radial distance outwardly from each bridge, other locking tongues (22) are situated between the two said locking tongues along a circumferential direction.

With respect to claim 3, wherein all the locking tongues are situated at a free end portion of the male part.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

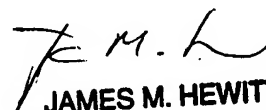
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH
1/2/07


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER